(b) Demand for foodgrains at any given point of time depends upon population characteristics, production, availability, income distribution, prices, consumption habits availability of substitutes, etc.

By and large the internal demand for foodgrains is met from domestic production.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to import foodgrains.

[*English*]

Agro-Based and Food Processing Industries

2003. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the types of small, medium and large scale agro-based and food-processing industries, the Government propose to establish for employment generation;

(b) the estimated number of job opportunities to be created every year; and

(c) the names of such industries which can be established in backward and tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government does not have any proposal to set up food processing industries directly in any state. However, Plan Schemes have been formulated under which assistance is provided to the State Governments. Cooperative Societies, Public Sector Undertakings etc. for development of food processing industries.

(c) Industries like Mushroom cultivation and processing, Fruit & Vegetable processing, Meat, Poultry and Pork processing and Modernisation of single huller rice mills have been identified for development in the backward and tribal areas.

Requirement of Heavy Water

2004. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present annual requirement of heavy water to run the Atomic Power Plants in the country, plantwise; and

(b) whether the Talcher Heavy Water Plant in Orissa is behind its target production and if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Each operating 235 MWe pressurised Heavy Water Reactor requires on an average approximately 250 MTs of Heavy Water as initial inventory and 12 MTs of Heavy Water in a year as make up.

(b) Talcher Plant is in operation and producing Heavy Water depending on availability of inputs from the Fertilizer Plant with which it is integrated. Sustained operation of the Plant has, however, not been possible due to very low and frequently interrupted supplies of inputs from FCI as well as power interruptions.

Population Below Poverty Line in Karnataka

2005. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population living below the poverty line in Karnataka as per the latest survey;

(b) to what extent, it is more in comparison to other States;

(c) whether any programme is being chalked out to bring them above the poverty line, if so, the details thereof;